

We hear this trite old expression that makes me ill: "Guns do not kill people, people kill people." Well, how do people get the ability to kill other people? I never heard of a drive-by knifing.

Mr. President, one of these days, we are going to have to come to our senses about gun ownership, the proliferation of guns. I have legislation that I introduced the other day to reduce, on a Federal level, purchases of guns more than once a month. One gun a month, 12 guns a year. That does not sound like much of a restriction. But we have a fight on our hands. Maryland just passed it in one of the bodies of legislature there, in their Senate. It is predicted that it will go through with dispatch. Virginia has a one-gun-a-month program. Because Virginia has a limit of 1 gun a month—can you imagine, 12 guns a year are able to be purchased? They have reduced the gun presence in the Northeast of guns coming from the State of Virginia by 60-some percent by restricting gun purchases to one gun a month. The madness of it all. In order to protect those who demand an arsenal, they can buy 12 guns a year. It does not seem like that is a necessary thing to me.

But I am willing to take whatever steps I can to reduce the proliferation of guns in our society. I have become friends with Sarah and Jim Brady. I would not have before Jim was shot because we were in different parties and of different political or philosophical persuasions, because I never belonged to a gun organization. But Jim Brady was a good friend of the National Rifle Association, until someone attempted to kill President Reagan and shot Jim Brady in the attack. Jim Brady, who has been physically disabled, wheelchair bound since that time, has turned the opposite way, and so did his wife, when they saw what a terrible thing a gun could do. There are others I have met who used to support the National Rifle Association agenda, and when they suddenly see violence in their homes, they are opposed to gun ownership as randomly as it exists in this country.

I have also introduced legislation that says that anyone convicted of even a misdemeanor on domestic violence charges should not be able to own a gun. Right now, someone who has indicated that their rage is so impossible to control that they can come home and beat up their wife or kids and get convicted and stand in front of a judge in Baltimore County, and he says, "I cannot assign criminal penalties to someone who is not a criminal," after the man killed his wife. He gave him community service and, I think, 5 months in jail after he killed his wife. He does not call it a criminal act.

Now, Mr. President, we cannot do the job by simply building more jails. There was an editorial piece, an op-ed piece, in the New York Times the other day—and that is not gospel, but it was reporting facts—written by Anthony Lewis. He said that the biggest pro-

gram for building in California was the building of jails. While the number of students per teacher increases, meaning less attention to the students' needs, jails are being built. I think criminals ought to be punished and punished hard. But I think we also ought to look at what it is that drives all these people to criminality with all of the penalties that we impose, each of them getting longer and larger and tougher. That has not curbed the violence problem. Maybe we ought to say, hey, perhaps there is a different way to do this and examine the alternative. I hope that we will, Mr. President.

If I sound agitated, I am. I think about this young woman, a devoted parent and teacher, a teacher of the type that we all respect and want in our schools. She was murdered by some young punk who decides he wants her car. He was encouraged by what he sees on television and what he sees in gun ownership. She is threatened by a gun and did not even know that it existed, but she knows when someone says they have a gun, very often that is the case.

I hope we will learn from this courageous woman's death, and many other murders around the country, that we ought to do something differently. I hope that police departments across the country will start to prepare some advisory so that women can protect themselves. I have heard—and I do not know whether this is true; I state it secondhand—that a woman is better off to resist in a public place than to permit herself to be taken out of the public limelight. I do not know whether it is true, but I hope police departments—I would like to see police departments across the country prescribe actions in response to an attack of that type, to do something to protect themselves, to thwart the intentions of somebody who wants to take their lives, or take their property first and, typically, then their lives, and often whether or not the property is gained.

Mr. President, I hope we do not have to keep on discussing these kinds of things in the U.S. Senate, or in the Congress, or in our Government, and that we can look forward to a more peaceful time within our society. We are all shocked and horrified by the prospect of military engagement in Bosnia and in other parts of the world, and we look with horror upon the period in Vietnam when so many of our young people fought bravely and gallantly against a bad policy decision. We lost 50,000 people in the period of years that the Vietnam war went on. Now we lose over 15,000 people a year in this country to gun murders. Unfortunately, it does not get a lot of attention.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

CORRECTION OF THE RECORD

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, I believe it was on March 21 that I spoke on this floor in reference to Senator SAM NUNN and the late Senator Richard B. Rus-

sell and their fine work on the Armed Services Committee of the Senate. I made a comparison in the course of those remarks of Mr. NUNN to Marshal Michael Ney, who was one of the top officers in Napoleon's army. I referred to Marshal Ney's having been separated from the army of Napoleon, but having fought his way back to join the army. He fought through thousands of cossacks and had come to the river Dnieper, D-n-i-e-p-e-r. He had lost all of his guns, but he crossed the river and rejoined the main forces of Napoleon's army.

I stated that Napoleon was overjoyed when he heard that Marshal Ney had escaped and rejoined the army. And he made the comment to other officers at that point—he said, "I have more than 400 million francs in the cellars," c-e-l-l-a-r-s, "of the Tuileries," T-u-i-l-e-r-i-e-s. "I would gladly have given them all for the ransom of my old companion in arms."

Well, I suppose I was talking like I had my mouth full of turnips, and the official reporter did not get the name of the river correctly spelled—D-n-i-e-p-e-r—Dnieper; the reporter substituted the name of the river Niemen, N-i-e-m-e-n. It was a river in White Russia. When I saw that name I thought, "My, I never heard of the name of such a river." So I went to Webster's dictionary and I found there, indeed, the name of a river called the Niemen River. So it sounded very much like the Dnieper River.

I make these remarks today, Mr. President, just to call attention to the error which was inadvertent on the part of the reporter and was really my fault. I ask unanimous consent that the permanent RECORD be shown to state that it was the Dnieper River, D-n-i-e-p-e-r, not the Niemen River, to which I referred in my remarks. I yield back the balance of my time.

UNANIMOUS-CONSENT AGREEMENT—H.J. RES. 170

Mr. GRAHAM addressed the Chair.
The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Florida is recognized.

THE CONTINUING RESOLUTION

Mr. GRAHAM. Mr. President, a little more than an hour ago, the Senate voted for the 12th time in this 6 months of the 1996 fiscal year for a short-term continuing resolution for many of our most important Federal agencies.

Mr. President, I voted for that continuing resolution as I have for its predecessors out of a sense of frustration and the absence of any other reasonable alternative. But, Mr. President, I am taking this occasion to announce that will be my last vote for such a continuing resolution because I believe that we are acting in a highly irresponsible and embarrassing—and adverse to the interests of the people of this Nation—manner by the way in which we are conducting the fiscal affairs of this great Nation.